Digital Threats to the Achievement of the SDGs: Libraries as the Target

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Introductory Remark

- The UN SDGs is a universal call to action.

- It is expected to stimulate progress within a defined timeframe.

- This calls for urgency in the implementation of the goals and indicators across the framework.

- Stakeholders like IFLA has taken a front seat in driving this agenda through equitable access to information.

Libraries and SDGs: Information as the connector

- Libraries provide access to information for societal transformation.

- The accessibility and utilization of information are critical for achieving a sustainable development.

- Libraries provide access to core elements within the agenda like:
  - ✓ Health
  - ✓ Agriculture
  - ✓ Education
  - ✓ Business / Economy
  - ✓ ICT… *The list continues!*

Goal 2c: Timely access to market information.

Goal 3.7: Access to information on sexual and reproductive health.

Goal 9c: Universal access to ICT

Goal 12.8: Access to information on sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature.

Goal 16.10: Ensure public access to information

Libraries and SDGs: Information as the connector (Cont.D)

- Librarians are rightly positioned to foster the attainment of SDGs through quality information service delivery.

- Libraries are considered as information hubs that promote SDGs actualization.

- Libraries manage personal and research data of their users and personnel, scholarly information resources (online and offline) as well as their information systems in information service provision.

- These resources all require to be safeguarded against digital threat.

Digital threat to libraries: Types, Causes and Implications for SDGs realization

TYPES

- *Cyber cracking*
- *Data breaches*
- *Spyware*
- *Denial of service (DoS) attacks*
- *Phishing and Pharming*
- *Malware*

- These threats negate the core principles of IFLA as enshrined in her code of ethics.

CAUSES

- High monetization of information resources.

- Radical ideologies

- Lack (or poor implementation) of cyber security policies.

- Poor cyber literacy

- Unethical cyber practices

The Implications of cyber intrusions and attacks (in libraries) on SDGs

- Derails library from providing public access to information.

- Creates disruption in information service delivery making it difficult for people to meet their information needs.

- Hinders people's access to technological infrastructure and internet facilities.

- Theft of users' personal data causes mistrust with adverse effect on people's return intention to the library.

- Loss of vital historical and indigenous knowledge from communities on agricultural practices, orthodox medicine etc. which are enablers of sustainable development.

- Destroys scholarly materials that drive research and innovation, making them inaccessible for consumption and subsequent developmental actions.

- Destroys research data essential for developmental projections.

Digital threats & SDGs: The way forward

- Elimination or Regularization of cost for information materials.

- Advocacy

- Enactment / adoption of cyber security policies

- Cyber literacy

- Cyber security measures
  o Use of biometric technologies for identity authentication
  o Encryption
  o Regular Audits and Assessments of Information Systems
  o Restrictions on administrative computers
  o Firewall protection to prevent outside attack

Implications for policy, practices and collaborations

- Developing global cyber security policy for libraries and cyber security tool-kits.

- National cyber security policy

- Improving Cyber security consciousness

- Vendors of information systems should include cyber security requirements in their systems.

- Development of cyber security workforce in libraries

Concluding Remark!!!